

Event Vetting

Government employees, particularly high-level officials like United States Attorneys, are subject to ethical restrictions governing the types of events they may attend. Some restrictions relate to benefits, including luncheons, dinners, awards, and tokens of appreciation they may accept. Other restrictions relate, among other things, to participation in events that are sponsored by persons who do business with or lobby the Government; that have a fundraising component; where it may appear that official attendance is being used to promote the event or the sponsor; or where elected officials may be in attendance. To assist us in vetting compliance with government ethical restrictions, we would appreciate it if you could provide the following information. If you do not have specific information for each response, please provide such general or descriptive information as you currently have. Please do not hesitate to call the Office's Government Ethics Advisor, (b)(6), (b)(7) at (b)(6), (b)(7)c or e-mail him a (b)(6), (b)(7)c to discuss this.

1. Name, date and time, and location of event.

Seton Hall Law School 2016 Commencement Ceremony

May 27, 2016 at 10 am

Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey

2. Format of event (*e.g.*, cocktails; presentations; speeches; and/or meal).

Graduation Ceremony – keynote address

3. Estimated cost per attendee of event.

N/A

4. Are any attendees being charged to attend the event? NO

a. If so, who (in general) is being offered free attendance, and who is expected to pay?

5. Name of entity extending the invitation and link to web site (if any).

Seton Hall Law School – law.shu.edu

a. Does the entity extending the invitation engage in lobbying? NO

6. Sponsor of event if different from above.

a. Does the sponsor of the event engage in lobbying?

7. Names of additional entities that will be recognized for sponsorship or support of the event.

N/A

8. How many persons are expected to attend? 1000 – 1500
9. Demographics of expected attendees (*e.g.*, lawyers; law enforcement; business leaders; students; etc.)

Law faculty, administration and graduates as well as graduates families and friends.

10. Are any elected officials expected to attend and, if so, what is their expected role? NO
11. Is there a fundraising component to the event? (*e.g.*, program advertisements; dinner ticket price; silent auction)? If so, please describe.¹ NO
12. Expected role of U.S. Attorney (*e.g.*, simple attendance; remarks; speech) Receive honorary degree and give keynote address
13. If the U.S. Attorney is being honored:
- a. What are the criteria your organization applies to determine who should be honored for this specific award?

Through the awarding of University honors, Seton Hall seeks to recognize individuals who have made a noteworthy contribution to the good of our world. All candidates for University honors must respect the ideals, goals, and Catholic identity of Seton Hall, as expressed in our Mission Statement and elsewhere. Moreover, in the case of the especially high distinction of an honorary degree, the candidate should demonstrate

- commitment to peace and social justice, with respect for equality and diversity; and
- important contributions to the search for truth—to the intellectual life, to the world of culture, or to academic disciplines in which Seton Hall is active—pursued with a fundamental appreciation of the dignity of the human person and the broad imperatives of being human.

¹ For events that involve any fundraising leading up to or during the event: The United States Attorney may not participate in any active fundraising activity with respect to the event. Nor may the U.S. Attorney allow his name, position, or title to be used for any fundraising activity for your organization. If applicable, you may list his name as an awardee and/or speaker on the program and on invitations issued not more than 30 days prior to the event, along with other information about the program. He may not be listed on any “save the date” notices. Failure to comply with these limitations may preclude the U.S. Attorney from appearing at the event. If the U.S. Attorney is giving an official speech, he may be seated and have photos taken as appropriate for a speaker at the event, but you may not use his photo in connection with any other fundraising efforts.

- b. What is the internal process by which your organization selects potential honorees? The Law Students nominate honoree/speaker. Approval is made by the Dean, Provost and Board of Regents.
- c. For what specific public service or achievement do you wish to honor the U.S. Attorney? Not one specifically.
- d. Did any of the accomplishments of the U.S. Attorney which you wish to honor directly affect the organization or its members? (Describe.) Not one specifically.
- e. Do any of the board members or host committee or senior staff have any matters pending before or involving the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York? One Board member said the following:

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

- f. Please provide a description and the value of any award item (if the award item is a plaque, certificate or trophy of little intrinsic value, you may so indicate).
- g. Who else is expected to be honored at the event? No one.

14. If the U.S. Attorney is making a presentation, who else is expected to be making a presentation/be on a panel? Law School Dean will M.C. University President will speak, a graduating student will speak there will be open and closing prayers.

- a. Will the U.S. Attorney be presented with a token or memento in appreciation for his presentation?
 - i. ☐ Nothing
 - ii. ☐ Plaque or other memento of little intrinsic value
 - iii. ☒ Other. Please describe, including its value. Honorary diploma and hood.

15. Describe any special seating arrangements for U.S. Attorney, *e.g.*, dais, general seating (depending on the nature of the event, the U.S. Attorney may or may not be able to accept “dais” seating.) The honoree and other VIPs sit on a Dais on stage at graduation.
16. Promotion of the event: please provide a copy of or link to the invitation/promotional material for the event (or if not available, for the prior year’s event). Attached.